

DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 2003-318

) ORDER GRANTING
) REQUEST TO EXTEND
) DEADLINE FOR FILING
) TARIFFS ASSOCIATED
) WITH THE STATE
) UNIVERSAL SERVICE
) FUND

Commission Order No. 2001-996 sets out the guidelines and administrative procedures for the USF, and provides that after the Initial Phase, on April 1 of each year, beginning in 2003, each ILEC receiving USF support may file tariff reductions and request additional USF support to fund the continued removal of implicit support contained in rates. Such filings will be considered by the Commission and a decision rendered by September 1 of the same year for inclusion in the state USF as sized each October 1. Additionally, Order

No. 2001-996 provides that companies seeking rate reductions shall also file detailed cost data clearly demonstrating that implicit support exists in the rates that are proposed to be reduced. Any such tariff filings shall be made by April 1, 2003 and the Commission's decision will be rendered by August 1, 2003.

Previously by letter of March 18, 2003, ALLTEL requested the Commission extend for thirty (30) days the April 1, 2003 deadline to file its tariffs associated with the USF. Thereafter, by Order No. 2003-210, dated April 2, 2003, the Commission granted ALLTEL a thirty (30) day extension until May 1, 2003, to file the Company's tariffs. Now, ALLTEL through its counsel's letter of April 24, 2003, requests an additional thirty (30) days to file the Company's tariffs associated with the USF.

ALLTEL states in its request that the Commission only last week issued its Order addressing the request of six incumbent local exchange carriers for additional funding from the universal service funds.¹ According to ALLTEL, the Company would like to review this Order closely prior to deciding whether and how to make filings in the present docket. Lastly, ALLTEL asserts its belief that granting the Company an additional thirty (30) day extension would not impair the proceeding in light of the fact that the Commission has previously granted various parties an extension of time until June 1, 2003, to make the necessary filings in this docket.

The Commission finds and concludes that ALLTEL's request for an additional extension of time to file the Company's tariffs associated with the USF should be granted.

¹ The Commission issued Order No. 2003-215, "Order Addressing The Universal Service Fund" in Docket No. 97-239-C on April 15, 2003.

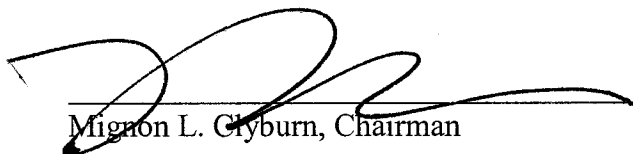
MAY 12, 2003

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The deadline of May 1, 2003, as set forth in Commission Order No. 2003-210, shall be extended to June 1, 2003, for ALLTEL South Carolina, Inc. to file the Company's tariffs and any accompanying cost data associated with the South Carolina Universal Service Fund.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.


Mignon L. Glyburn, Chairman

ATTEST:



Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director

(SEAL)